

Living in the Shadow of Death

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

1. If death happens to everyone, what difference does anything make? (vv. 1-2)
 - a. Matthew 5:44-45 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

2. Living is still better than dying. (vv. 3-6)
 - a. 4:1-3; 6:1-6; 7:1-2
 - b. 2:16
 - c. Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."
 - d. 1 Timothy 5:24 The sins of some men are obvious, going ahead of them to judgment; but the sins of others do not surface until later.

3. Make the most of your days of life. (vv. 7-10)
 - a. Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.
 - b. Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.
 - c. Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men,

4. Make the most of your days because you never know what will happen. (vv. 11-12)

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- We know what to expect in this life and beyond.
 - John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

- 1 Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.
- 1 Corinthians 15:19-21 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
- Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- Our view is: to live is Christ and to die is a gain not a loss.
 - Philippians 1:21-23 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far

- We have to live as if there is more later and if we do we will make the most of what is now.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
 - Revelation 19:6-9
 - James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
 - Ephesians 5:15-16 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.